

should be, will prove a fitting *début* before the world. We have therefore every reason to be hopeful for our Society.

Many of us are connected with Government work, and official life at best is more or less uncertain. Some of us may not tarry long in Washington, or may soon cease to become active members, but there is every promise that others will take the places of those of us who may leave, and in closing this first presidential address of the Entomological Society of Washington, I can but express my earnest hope that it will have a grand future, and help to promote all that is high and noble in the study of insect life, and to raise that study in the eyes of our fellow-men; to render it, in other words, worthy of the highest talent and the deepest thought.

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APRIL 2, 1885.

Six members present. Second Vice-President Marx in the chair.

Mr. Mann exhibited a specimen of *Rhagium lineatum* captured two days previously in the streets of Washington. Mr. Schwarz remarked upon the early appearance of this Cerambycid on the walls of houses or at other places within cities. The species lives under pine-bark and hibernates as imago under such bark. Thus it is frequently brought into cities with pine wood, and as such wood is often stored in cellars and other sheltered places, the beetle appears quite early in the season, or even in midwinter on warmer days.

Mr. Schwarz exhibited specimens of *Rhopalopus sanguinicornis*, and remarked that this is one of the few species of Coleoptera peculiar to the mountainous regions of the Alleghanies. The scarcity of species peculiar to the higher montane region of that range, and the almost complete absence of such peculiar forms on the lower altitudes, is strongly contrasted with the abundance of montane and colline forms in Europe. As the probable reason of this difference, he gave the influence of the long-established cultivation of the soil in Europe, by which the fauna and flora of the plains have been gradually brought in contrast with those of the less cultivated hills and, still more strongly, with the not culti-

vated higher mountains. In North America the corresponding faunas and floras representing the more original state of things have not yet become separated. The fauna of the Alleghanies nowhere represents an alpine character, that of the White Mountains in New Hampshire being essentially arctic in its character.

Mr. Howard made a statement in regard to the parasites of *Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis*. He had found a Chalcid larva feeding within the bags of this species upon the larva of the Ichneumonid parasite, *Hemiteles thyridopterygis*, and surmised that the Chalcid would prove to be the *Pteromalus* often bred from *Thyridopteryx* bags. This observation shows that one of the so-called parasites of the Bag-worm is secondary, and so injurious rather than beneficial. The speaker generalized on the distinction so difficult to draw between primary and secondary parasites and urged the importance of close observation and extending rearing of parasites in order to form a basis for a separation between the injurious and beneficial species.

Dr. Marx spoke on the Arachnida collected by Dr. L. M. Turner in northern Labrador. As was to be expected in a country almost destitute of trees, the species living under stones and moss were much more represented than the web-constructing species living among trees. The best represented family is that of the *Lycosidæ*, next the *Drassidæ*, and then the *Thomisoidæ*.

Mr. Schwarz exhibited specimens of *Eutyphlus* and *Nicotheus* of the Coleopterous family Pselaphidæ, the latter genus being recently established by Lieutenant Casey. After a close examination of the two genera, he has no doubt that *Nicotheus* is synonymous with *Eutyphlus*, and that even the specific difference of the two insects may be doubted, the only difference being the well developed eyes in *Nicotheus*.

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MAY 6, 1885.

Six persons present. Dr. Barnard in the chair.

Mr. Stewart inquired as to the best places and best methods for collecting Neuroptera, and Dr. Barnard, Mr. Howard and Mr. Schwarz gave their experience in regard to several families and genera of that Order.